

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 14, 2013

Proclaim May 19, 2013 as First Ladies' Health Day in Los Angeles County

Communicable and chronic illnesses have plagued the County of Los Angeles (County) for many years. African Americans, in particular, experience extremely high rates of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and HIV infection. Many prematurely die because they lack adequate health care and are unaware of their diagnosis. In May 2012, the first annual First Ladies' Health Day was held at 30 churches in the County to raise awareness in a campaign to combat diseases that disproportionately affect minorities.

The wives of church pastors, the First Ladies, play an important leadership role in their churches. This year, the First Ladies of Los Angeles are uniting to end health disparities and create healthier communities. They are opening the doors to over 40 churches on May 19, 2013 to provide life-saving screenings free of cost.

In 2012, 1,475 people received blood pressure screening, 362 received an HIV test, and 5,063 had glucose screenings. Health providers disseminated information

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
May 14, 2013
PAGE 2

about various illness including, Hepatitis C, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and other sicknesses that disproportionately affect the African American community. The Los Angeles County Fire Department also provided free CPR trainings.

This year, the First Ladies' initiative will partner with public and private entities, including community clinics, to provide free health screenings and services to approximately 20,000 congregants and community residents. The Los Angeles Department of Health Services will provide nurses for screenings while the Los Angeles Department of Public Health will coordinate the HIV testing at all 40 sites.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim May 19, 2013 as "First Ladies' Health Day" in the County of Los Angeles and encourage all residents in Los Angeles County to get tested and screened for communicable and chronic illnesses.

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